IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus in which a score reflecting an acoustic likelihood of the results of speech recognition of an input speech is calculated and in which the speech is recognized based on the score, comprising:

extraction means for extracting characteristic values of said input speech, the input speech comprising a plurality of input words;

selection means for selecting one or more candidate first words from the plurality of input words to be processed by speech recognition processing, based on a word score that represents an evaluation of acoustic scores and language scores calculated using said characteristic values, and for selecting one or more candidate second words from the plurality of input words not based on the acoustic score, the candidate second words having unstable acoustic characteristic values with a number of phonemes and syllables less than a preset value;

score calculation means for calculating said score of said candidate first and candidate second words selected by said selection means referencing concatenation information of said first and second words; and

finalizing means for finalizing a word string, as the recognition result of said speech, based on said score,

wherein the selected one or more candidate first words based on the word score have a number of phonemes and syllables equal to or above ~~the preset value~~ the number of phonemes

- 3 -

<u>and syllables of the candidate second words</u> and more stable acoustic characteristic values than

the selected one or more candidate second words,

wherein the word concatenation information is sequentially updated based on the score.

2. – 4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously Presented)          The speech recognition apparatus according to

claim 1 further comprising:

storage means for memorizing the results of speech recognition;

wherein said selection means selects, as said candidate second words, the input words

included in the results of speech recognition memorized in said storage means, with a stored state

in said storage means as a measure not based on the non-acoustic score.

6.   (Original)          The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 5 further

comprising:

inputting means for providing an input for correcting the results of speech recognition;

wherein said storage means stores the results of the speech recognition corrected by the

input from said inputting means.

7.   (Previously Presented)          The speech recognition apparatus according to

claim 1 wherein said selection means calculates said score using characteristic values of the

speech to select said candidate first word based on said score.

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8.  (Currently Amended)              A speech recognition method in which a score reflecting an acoustic likelihood of the results of speech recognition of an input speech is calculated and in which the speech is recognized based on the score, comprising:

an extraction step of extracting characteristic values of said input speech, said input speech comprising a plurality of input words;

a selection step of selecting one or more candidate first words from the plurality of input words to be processed by speech recognition processing, based on a word score that represents an evaluation of acoustic scores and language scores calculated using said characteristic values, and for selecting one or more candidate second words from the input plurality of words not based on the acoustic score, the candidate second words having unstable acoustic characteristic values with a number of phonemes and syllables less than a preset value;

a score calculation step of calculating said score of said candidate first and candidate second words selected by said selection step referencing concatenation information of said first and second words; and

a finalizing step of finalizing a word string, as the recognition result of said speech, based on said score,

wherein the selected one or more candidate first words based on the word score have a number of phonemes and syllables equal to or above the preset value the number of phonemes and syllables of the candidate second words and more stable acoustic characteristic values than the selected one or more candidate second words,

wherein the word concatenation information is sequentially updated based on the score.

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9.  (Currently Amended)          A computer-readable medium having recorded thereon a program for causing a computer to perform speech recognition processing in which a score reflecting an acoustic likelihood of the results of speech recognition of an input speech is calculated and in which the speech is recognized based on the score, comprising:

an extraction step of extracting characteristic values of said input speech, said input speech comprising a plurality of input words;

a selection step of selecting one or more candidate first words from the plurality of input words to be processed by speech recognition processing, based on a word score that represents an evaluation of acoustic scores and language scores calculated using said characteristic values, and for selecting one or more candidate second words from the plurality of input words not based on the acoustic score, the candidate second words having unstable acoustic characteristic values with a number of phonemes and syllables less than a preset value;

a score calculation step of calculating said score of said candidate first and candidate second words selected by said selection step referencing concatenation information of said first and second words; and

a finalizing step of finalizing a word string, as the recognition result of said speech, based on said score,

wherein the selected one or more candidate first words based on the word score have a number of phonemes and syllables equal to or above ~~the preset value~~ the number of phonemes and syllables of the candidate second words and more stable acoustic characteristic values than the selected one or more candidate second words,

wherein the word concatenation information is sequentially updated based on the score.

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